

burrows for diurnal roosts (Roberts 1977). In this Park it co-exists with python and porcupine.

This is the first record of this species from Rajasthan as the distribution range of this common microchiropteran has been recorded

as Central and Western India, Pakistan, Indonesia, Thailand, Taiwan (Brosset 1962 and Roberts 1977).

I thank Mr. Manoj Muni, BNHS for identifying the specimen and Dr. V. S. Vijayan, Project Scientist for encouragement.

JUNIOR FIELD BIOLOGIST,
BNHS ECOLOGICAL RESEARCH CENTRE,
BHARATPUR - 321 001,
RAJASTHAN,
January 30, 1987.

S. BHUPATHY

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3. SIGHTING OF A RUSTY SPOTTED CAT (*FELIS RUBIGINOSA*)

The Rusty Spotted Cat was noticed fairly frequently in the forests of South Gujarat, especially of the Dangs and Valsad districts. I had myself sighted this cat in the Dangs and Vansda forests on a number of occasions in the past. However, in the last decade and a half, no sightings were reported and I feared that, with the inroads of human activities in these forest areas and the consequent destruction of its habitat, this little cat may be on its way to extinction. It was therefore with a sense of happiness and some relief that I spotted one some time towards the 1st week of November 1986. I was driving along the main road going through the Vansda National Park when, on one of the turns of the ghat road known locally as "Vis-Gholiani Bari",

I saw the small cat rush across in front of jeep and cross the road in full view in the headlights of my car. It was around 8-8.30 p.m. It stood for some time and then disappeared in the grass.

This species is rare throughout the country and I am not aware of there being any specimens in any Zoo. It may therefore be a good idea to trap two or three of these cats and try to breed them in captivity because otherwise we may stand to lose this species altogether.

I would also like to suggest that the Gujarat State Forest Department undertakes a quick field survey to determine the present status and distribution of this and other lesser cats in the state.

DIGVIR NIWAS,
VANSDA-396 580,
DIST. VALSAD,
GUJARAT STATE,
January 20, 1987.

DIGVEERENDRASINH